[28th November 1928

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" In answer to clauses (a) and (b) it is stated that the Government are unable to answer the questions at this stage. May I know when they will be able to answer the questions and at what stage ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" After we come to a conclusion."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" May I know, Sir, when will that be ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I cannot say, Sir."

Reorganization of the Madras City Police.

* 760-C Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have passed orders on the recommendations of the Commissioner of Police, Madras, on the reorganization of the City Police ;

(b) if not, when they propose to do so ;

(c) whether the Commissioner of Police has ever inquired into the question whether the Indian members of the police force in Madras of all ranks are paid a living wage ;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to call upon him to make such an enquiry with a view to submit proposals for raising their salaries to correspond to a living wage ; and

(e) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The proposals are under the consideration of the Government.

(c) The Government have no information as to inquiries of the Commissioner of Police on this point.

(d) & (e) The Government see no reason to suppose that the Commissioner is not capable of taking the initiative in the matter if necessary. At present, the Government see no reason to suppose that the Indian members of the force are, generally speaking, underpaid.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With reference to clause (c) of my question, may I know whether, since the receipt of my question by Government, the Government took any steps to ascertain whether the Commissioner of Police has enquired whether the Indian members of the Police force are paid a living wage ; if not, why not ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I have not heard the hon. Member, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The question is whether the Commissioner of Police ever enquired into the question whether the Indian members of the Police force in Madras are paid a living wage. The answer given is 'The Government have no information as to enquiries of the Commissioner of Police on this point.' I am asking whether, since the receipt of the question by Government, any steps were taken by the Government to find out if the Commissioner of Police has made any enquiry on the lines suggested ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I have said before, the report is before the Government and we are considering it. If the Government feel that they ought to get information on this matter, we shall certainly do so."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answers to clauses (*d*) and (*e*) of my question, the answer is 'the Government see no reason to suppose that the Indian members of the force are, generally speaking, underpaid.' May I know what are the grounds on which the Government have come to this conclusion that the Indian members are not underpaid? May I know the grounds on which they have come to such conclusion?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Because we have received no representations to the effect till now."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Does Government undertake, in case they get representations from Indian members of the police force, to ask the Commissioner of Police to enquire?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is a hypothetical question."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Police force threatened to strike some time back if their pay was not increased?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—I am not aware of it."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the subordinate members of the police staff are permitted to make representations in their collective capacity?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" In the answer it is stated that the Government see no reason to suppose that the Indian members of the force are generally speaking, underpaid. Have they come to that conclusion after carefully examining the question or is it simply their supposition?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is not a supposition, but a matter of fact."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, Sir, on what basis that 'matter of fact' is based, apart from the absence of representation?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Taking into consideration what salary we give to such men in other services."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Does Government seriously consider that the pay of the ordinary constable or head constable is sufficient or a living wage under present conditions?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It has been answered."

Proposals for the reorganization of the Madras City Police.

*760-D *Q.*—Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the reorganization proposals of the Commissioner of Police are calculated to relieve the Commissioner of all direct charge of every department now under him and of a good deal of traffic work ; and